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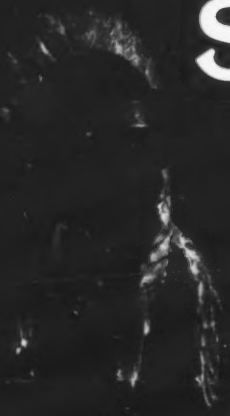
Ceramic Sculpture and Paintings



by Larry J. DesJarlais

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PEACE KEEPER. 1988. Stoneware with high fire glazes, 19" high.
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FATHER SKY. 1988. Stoneware with high fire glazes, 20¼" high.
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COVER:
SACRED VISION. 1987. Stoneware with high fire glazes, 14" high.
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WHITESHIELD AGAIN. 1988. Acrylic on canvas, 40" x 48".
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FOR THEM, I DANCE. 1988. Acrylic on canvas, 42" x 50".
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR • INDIAN ARTS AND CRAFTS BOARD
SOUTHERN PLAINS INDIAN MUSEUM AND CRAFTS CENTER

Ceramic Sculpture and Paintings

by Larry J. DesJarlais

An Exhibition April 2-26, 1989

Larry J. DesJarlais, Jr., Chippewa, was born on July 24, 1945 on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation in North Dakota. Although reservation life offered an abundance in wildlife and natural beauty, DesJarlais knew that someday he would leave to pursue a career in the arts. "As a child I would spend hours drawing on anything I could get my hands on—backs of cracker boxes, Christmas cards but mostly ruled school paper. My mother could not afford to buy me art supplies—I remember being thrilled to death when she brought me a discarded appointment book to draw on. The fact that she found it at the city dump did not diminish my joy..."

In 1964 DesJarlais entered the renowned Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico to study commercial arts. "Growing up in an extremely prejudiced area, it was not until I went to IAIA that I learned to recognize my heritage and that of other Indian cultures. IAIA was at its prime and bursting with energy from students who went on to become very successful artists. The two years I studied at IAIA gave me more than an education in the arts—it helped me find myself and for the first time in my life at the age of 21 I was proud to be an Indian..." After graduation, DesJarlais continued his education at New Mexico Highland University in Las Vegas, New Mexico, 1966-68. In 1987 DesJarlais received his B.A. degree from the College of Santa Fe, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

DesJarlais began his career working as a commercial artist in Santa Fe and later, Anchorage, Alaska. It was in Anchorage, in 1973, that he began seriously exploring the fine art of painting and a new medium, clay. "I immediately fell in love with the clay medium—it was very exciting and limitless. I felt I had found something to express myself as an artist and a person..."

DesJarlais' first formal exhibition was in 1975 at The Gallery in Anchorage, Alaska. Since then, the artist has exhibited his work in museums and galleries throughout the country, most recently at And Indians Gallery in Sedona, Arizona and Carol Thornton Gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico. In 1988, DesJarlais' work was featured in "Merging and Emergence," an exhibit of IAIA faculty work at The Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Larry J. DesJarlais has received numerous awards for his ceramic sculpture at the Annual Indian Market, sponsored by Southwest Association on Indian Affairs in Santa Fe, New Mexico. In 1987, DesJarlais received a First place award for his ceramic sculpture at the Northern Pueblos 15th Annual Artists and Craftsmen Show at San Ildefonso Pueblo, New Mexico. Larry J. DesJarlais received a Certificate of Appreciation from Bruce King, Governor of New Mexico at the 1981 Governor's Conference on Youth.

DesJarlais has chosen his spiritual medicine, the butterfly, as his theme for this exhibition. The painting, "Whiteshield Again," illustrated on page 3, is a portrait of one of the artist's favorite subjects;—the father of his uncle by marriage.

DesJarlais and his family reside in Santa Fe, New Mexico where he is a professor at the Institute of American Indian Arts.

This Special Exhibition, organized by the Indian Arts and Crafts Board's Southern Plains Indian Museum, is the first comprehensive showing of Larry J. DesJarlais' ceramic sculptures and paintings to be presented in Oklahoma.

Prices of ceramic sculptures and paintings for sale may be obtained upon request from the Oklahoma Indian Arts and Crafts Cooperative, an Indian owned and operated arts and crafts enterprise housed in the Southern Plains Indian Museum and Crafts Center. The Cooperative's address is Post Office Box 966, Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005. Telephone: Area Code: 405/247-3486.

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